

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Algoma has the floor.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, there are some differences between the clocks, but they all look to be at about 12.59 p.m. I wonder if we might agree to call it one o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there agreement?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

The House took recess at 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, in recent days, there have been deep debates in the country on the Meech Lake Accord. Unfortunately, some regrettable statements have been made, describing Manitoba's position as anti-Quebec, even racist. Ms. Carstairs was right to ask for an apology for *Le Devoir's* cartoon: it does not reflect reality. The Manitoba report presents the honest position of Manitobans on this agreement.

In addition, the Reform Party of Canada made unacceptable comments when it said that Quebec could leave Canada. We must admit that Quebec has been waiting for a constitutional agreement for years.

We must put an end to this climate of animosity. We must not forget the efforts of Canadians in all regions to preserve the rights of francophones and anglophones.

S. O. 31

This is clearly the time to begin an honest and serious debate. The Prime Minister must finally show leadership and find a solution to this problem in a constructive spirit.

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NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the report of the task force on financial compensation for isolated northern communities recommends that only those north of 51°30' parallel, North latitude, be eligible for financial compensation.

Matagami, Joutel, Lebel-sur-Quévillon, Desmaraisville, Waswanipi, Miquelon and other places in Quebec will not be able to benefit from this fiscal policy, according to the task force.

The concerns of us northerners are not the same as those in the South and tax incentives are necessary to attract people to remote regions. The inhabitants of the towns just mentioned should be compensated for the various hardships they face.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living is high in the North because more fuel is used and the price of food and clothing is higher. I am strongly opposed to the report tabled last week by this task force.

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SCIENCE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, the minister of finance and technology expressed surprise that fewer and fewer of our young people seem to be enthusiastic for science and engineering.

[English]

The minister seeks an explanation. Consider the quality of the teaching of science and mathematics in the high schools and universities. Consider the absence of any real federal or provincial initiatives in setting national educational priorities. Consider the disgraceful condition of university research laboratories, inadequate operational funds and faculty salaries. Consider the cutbacks in EPF and the failure of government to accept the Lortie report's recommendation for doubling of university research dollars. Consider the predominance of foreign ownership of Canadian industry. Consider the free trade agreement with its acquisition rules, procurement rules and subsidy limits, and its role in keeping Canada a resource based economy. Consider the stories of Connaught, Lumitron and Northern Telecom. Then ask not why our youth do not value science and engineering. Ask what really is the message they get from government.